

NSC BRIEFING
DRAFT

22 January 1957

INDIAN VIEW OF HUNGARIAN SITUATION

- I. Indian ambassador Menon in Moscow recently spent two weeks in Budapest (24 December to 8 January) and gave an account of his general impressions of Hungary to ambassador Bohlen in Moscow on 14 January. Menon's appraisal of the Hungarian scene represents a more realistic attitude than he had previously held; Menon said that he believed that India has given up any hopes of using good offices to influence Soviet policy toward Hungary.
 - A. Menon told Bohlen that he was going to see Shepilov (which he did, on 14 January) and that he would give Shepilov his frank opinion of Soviet errors in Hungary. But he doubted that his conversation would be at all fruitful.
 - B. Menon noted that he again was disgusted by the slavish attitude of the Chinese Communist ambassador in Budapest. He said that the Chinese ambassador in Moscow had earlier told him that the issues in Hungary were "fundamental" to the entire Communist movement and must be treated in that light.
- II. Menon described conditions in Budapest during his visit as quieter and more normal than during his first visit (early December) but said that the workers and population had not changed their

State Dept. review completed

hostile attitude toward the Kadar regime.

A. Menon had earlier hoped that the Hungarian government would be broadened and that the workers councils could form some sort of political base for an eventual political solution. But he now feels that these possibilities have been either abandoned or found unproductive by the regime.

B. He told Bohlen that he felt that the Soviets had played a large part in forcing the abandonment of any such attempts.

III. The Indian ambassador's pessimism and general observations on Hungary have been borne out by events since his departure from Budapest.

A. The Hungarian regime has stepped up its harsh policies and has resorted to more and more terror and rule by arbitrary decree.

B. There is no longer any chance at all of any liberalization of the regime's political policies so long as popular hostility remains at such a high level -- which is likely for the foreseeable future.

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- I. Indian ambassador Menon in Moscow told Bohlen he now pessimistic about Hungary and Soviet policy toward Hungary.
 - A. Believes Indian government has abandoned hope influencing Moscow re Hungary.
 - B. Feels conversations with Shepilov useless.
- II. Menon's appraisal reflects realistic attitude, after two week visit to Budapest (24 Dec - 8 Jan).
 - A. Notes efforts to broaden regime scrapped, attributes this to Soviets.
 - B. Says people quiet but hostile as ever.
- III. Events in Hungary since Menon visit bear him out.
 - A. Regime stepping up terror, no compromise in sight.